

Federal Probers of Industrial Unrest Complete Report

Opinions of Chairman Walsh and Labor Colleagues Have "Teeth"

Chicago.—On Monday, August 23, the United States commission on industrial relations adjourned sine die after giving final approval to a report that will be filed with the clerk of the house of representatives for presentation to congress, when it convenes next December.

The commission has issued excerpts of the report, which includes supplemental views of all the members.

The principal report, prepared by Basil M. Manly, the commission's director of research and investigation, covers every phase of industrial unrest and the causes therefor. This is approved by Chairman Walsh and Commissioners O'Connell, Lennon and Garretson. It declares the crux of the whole question of industrial relations is: "Shall the workers, for the protection of their interests, be organized and represented collectively by their chosen delegates, even as the stockholders are represented by their directors and by the various grades of executive officials and bosses."

In its plea for a wider extension of democracy in industry, this report says:

"The ordinary man, whether employer or worker, has relatively little contact with the government. If he and his family are well fed, well housed and well clothed, and if he can pay for the education of his children, he can exist even under an autocratic monarchy with little concern until some critical situation develops in which his own liberty is interfered with or until he is deprived of life or property by the overwhelming power of his tyrannical ruler. But his industrial relations determine every day what he and his family shall eat, what they shall wear, how many hours of his life he shall labor and in what surroundings. Under certain conditions where his individual or corporate employer owns or controls the community in which he lives, the education of his children, the character and prices of his food, clothing and house, his own actions, speech and opinions, and in some cases even his religion, are controlled and determined, insofar as the interests of the employer make it desirable for him to exercise such control. Such conditions are established and maintained not only through the dictation of all working conditions of employment by the employer, but by his usurpation or control of the functions and machinery of political government in such communities."

The report summarizes the causes of industrial unrest as follows:

Unjust distribution of wealth and income.

Unemployment and denial of opportunity to earn a living.

Denial of justice in the creation, in the adjudication and in the administration of law.

Denial of the right and opportunity to form effective organizations.

It is shown that 44 families possess aggregate incomes totaling at least \$50,000,000 per year, while between one-fourth and one-third of male workers in factories and mines, 18 years of age and over, earn less than \$10 per week and only about one-tenth earn more than 20 per week.

To check these swollen, unearned fortunes, it is recommended that congress pass an inheritance tax law and that all funds of deceased over \$1,000,000 revert to the government. In support of this action, the report says:

"These heirs, owners only by virtue of the accident of birth, control the livelihoods and have the power to dictate the happiness of more human beings than populated England in the middle ages. Their principalities, it is true, are scattered and, through the medium of stock ownership, shared in part with others; but they are none the less real. In fact, such scattered, invisible industrial principalities are a greater menace to the welfare of the Nation than would be equal power consolidated into numerous petty kingdoms in different parts of the country. They might then be visualized and guarded against—now their influence invisibly permeates and controls every phase of life and industry."

"The families of these industrial princes are already well established and are knit together not only by commercial alliances, but by a network of intermarriages which assure harmonious action whenever their common interest is threatened."

It is declared that the unemployment situation will not be "appreciably relieved" until great advances have been made in removing the two prime causes—unjust distribution of land and natural resources.

Under the head "Denial of Justice," the numerous charges of workers are supported, and the report declares:

"The establishment of property rights and personal rights on the same level can leave only a constant and ever growing menace to our popular institutions. With the acceptance of such an ideal our democracy is doomed to ultimate destruction. Personal rights must be recognized as supreme and of unalter-

HOW THEY DIVIDED

Speaking generally, the commission on industrial relations is divided into two groups, one supporting the Manly report, the other, the Commons report. The individuals in these groups again divided on minor points.

The "Manly group" consists of Chairman Walsh and Commissioners O'Connell, Lennon and Garretson. These four members insist that the commission was appointed for the purpose of finding the "causes" of industrial unrest, and deal with such questions as swollen fortunes, monopolization of land and natural resources, feudalism in industry, etc.

The "Commons group" consists of Commissioners Commons, Florence J. Harriman, Alshon, Weinstein and Ballard, the last three representing employers. This group declares the greatest cause for industrial unrest is "the breakdown in the administration of labor laws" and the distrust of government "on the part of a large portion of our people." To remedy this alleged condition, this group favors an elaborate system of machinery to "settle" strikes, enforce labor laws and take charge of all social legislation and make recommendations for same. It would be supported by an inheritance tax. The plan would practically destroy the federal department of labor and would establish a powerful bureaucracy. This group does not favor holding individuals responsible for conditions in Colorado and can see much merit in the Rockefeller and other foundations.

In a supplemental report the three employers' representatives declare labor is justified in organizing to "protect itself against exploitation and oppression."

able ascendancy over property rights. Relief from these grave evils cannot be secured by petty reforms. The action must be drastic and directed at the roots from which these evils spring."

The pretense of "open shop" advocates is exposed thusly:

"The theory of the 'open shop,' according to these witnesses (employers), is that workers are employed without any reference to their membership or non-membership in trade unions; while, as a matter of fact, it was found upon investigation that these employers did not willingly or knowingly employ union men. Nevertheless, this is deemed to be a minor point. The 'open shop,' even if union men are not discriminated against, is as much a denial of the right of collective action as is the 'anti-union shop.' In neither is the collective action of employees permitted for the purpose of negotiating with reference to labor conditions. Both in theory and practice, in the absence of legislative regulation, the working conditions are fixed by the employer. It is evident, therefore, that there can at best be only a benevolent despotism where collective action on the part of employees does not exist."

In discussing "Women and Children in Industry," the report says:

"As a result of their unprotected condition, women and children are exploited in industry, trade, domestic service and agriculture, to an extent which threatens their health and welfare and menaces the well-being of future generations. The competition of women and children is a direct menace to the wage and salary standards of men. Under present conditions children are permitted by their parents to go to work largely because their earnings are necessary for the support of the rest of the family."

Encouraged.

The Bailiff—Think you'll be acquitted?

The Accused—Sure! The judge instructed the jury that I was entitled to the benefit of the doubt, and he said I had the most doubtful defense he ever listened to.—New York Globe.

Compensation.

Grubbs—Binks evidently thinks himself some pumpkins.

Stubbs—Yes, he does, but his acquaintances balance the equation. They unite in regarding him as one cabbage.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

All One Sided.

"Did you ever have any family debates at your house, Billbury?"

"Let's see. A debate has two sides, I believe?"

"Yes."

"No."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

GEORGIA'S DUTY.

Athens, Ga.—The Herald of this city says:

"The General Assembly has been urged year after year to enact a compulsory education law, but the body has invariably turned a deaf ear to every appeal. The forces engaged in the molding of child life into dollars have thus far successfully combated every effort set forth to emancipate the child from the thrall of industrial slavery."

"How much longer is Georgia to be numbered among the disgracefully illiterate States? What will have to happen to force the legislature to a realization of its duty to the men and women of tomorrow? Are even the rudiments of an education to be forever denied the children of the poor of Georgia? Every taxpaying citizen of this State helps to pay for the higher education of those educated in the State university, and consequently why should not the children of these more humble citizens, who are year after year contributing their mite to educate others, be enabled to at least see that their offspring have at least a fighting chance in the world?"

SOUTH IS NOT ALONE.

Bridgeport, Conn.—Mrs. Mary Scully, A. F. of L. organizer, believes the South is not the only section of this country where child labor is exploited. She says:

"Puritanical New England has long looked askance and pointed the accusing finger at the South for employing child labor, but my investigations have convinced me Connecticut should first cast the beam out of her own eye before trying to pluck the mote from the eye of the South or any other section of the country."

"Labor laws supposed to be for the promotion of women workers in Connecticut have long been a joke. It is the most backward State in this respect in New England. Connecticut is not one bit further advanced in regard to child labor and its laws for the future welfare of the human race by safeguarding the health of the women workers than in the South. I have found girls 11 and 12 years old working in factories here for 9, 11 and 15 cents a day."

PATTERN MAKERS GAIN.

Cincinnati.—President Wilson, of the Pattern Makers' League of North America, announces that the Cleveland local of this organization secured, without strike, the eight-hour day in all job shops, effective September 1. Over 200 men are interested. The nine-hour day has been secured in Racine, Wis. A general betterment of conditions throughout the country has been recorded during the past few months.

CLERKS UNIONIZE STORE.

Boston, Mass.—A. A. Vorenberg & Co., one of the large clothing and gent's furnishing concerns in this city, has agreed with A. F. of L. Organizer McCarthy and representatives of the Retail Clerks' Union, to unionize its establishment.

STRIKE AT SCHENECTADY.

Schenectady, N. Y.—Nearly 250 men and girls employed by the General Electric Company are on strike because officers and active members of their union—the electrical workers—were discharged when they presented grievances to the management.

Politeness.

Politeness costs nothing and is a good investment. Politeness is a sort of guard which covers the rough edges of our character and prevents their wounding others. We should never throw it off, even in our conflicts with coarse people.—Joubert.

Flies Flee Blue.

A French scientist is authority for the statement that flies have a distinct objection to the color blue. This was first discovered by a farmer who keeps a large number of cows in several sheds. One of these sheds happened to be painted blue on the inside, and in this the cows were little troubled by flies. He blined all the walls and thus protected all his cows.

The Menu.

"Will you have some of the tomatoes and lettuce with French dressing?" chirped the young wife.

"No," returned the husband, musing on his bachelor dinners, now forever done, "My salad days are over."

"Well," spoke up the wife sharply "the next course is the roast."

And she served him a large portion piping hot.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Scandal.

Scandal is that which gives us pleasure, in the thought that somebody else has done something which we have escaped doing because we were not similarly situated.

Scandal furnishes an occupation for women and newspapers. It began in the Garden of Eden and will end a few minutes after the last man has left the earth.—Life.

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The Tragedy.

The shoemaker sat
With his rat-a-tat-tat,
While fitting my shoes with new soles,
New soles,
And there stocking footed
I sat as if rooted
With holes in my socks, blooming
holes, holes, holes,
Alas, what a sin to
Look out through the window
And see Mary passing, my sweet, my sweet,
But how could I holla
And how could I follow
With holes in my socks and no shoes
on my feet?
I begged the shoemaker,
The blooming old faker,
To give back my shoes without soles,
Without heels,
But though they weren't done, he
Demanded the money
And turned a deaf ear to my frantic
appeals.
So off down the street
On her dainty small feet
Walked Mary, sweet Mary, with swift
graceful stride,
And but for the shocking
Large holes in my stocking
For sure, without shoes, I'd 'a' walked
at her side. H. S. HASKINS.

The Taj Mahal.

The Taj Mahal, at Agra, India, is said to be the most beautiful structure in the world. It was built by Shah Jehan as a tomb for his wife and is of the purest white marble. It shines so dazzling in the sun that you can scarcely look at it except in the morning or evening. Every part is inlaid with the most exquisite designs in marble of different colors, the finish being so perfect that the entire building may be said to resemble in the delicacy of its workmanship one of those Chinese caskets of ivory and ebony which are now so common in Europe and also in America.—New York American.

Keen Eyesight of Birds.

A hawk can spy a lark upon earth almost exactly the same color, at twenty times the distance at which it is perceptible to a man or a dog. A kite soaring out of human sight can still distinguish and pounce upon lizards and field mice on the ground, and the distance from which vultures and eagles can spy their prey is almost incredible.

A Reminder.

"I almost wish we hadn't named our boy William. Everybody calls him Bill, and I just hate that name."

"Yes, I suppose it is rather annoying to be reminded of your debts."—New York World.

The Fruit of Experience.

"The longer I live in this world," observed Mr. J. Fuller Gloom thoughtfully, "the more I am surprised at the enormous amount of good advice that I can get along without."—Woman's Home Companion.

Bogus.

"My face is my fortune," said the blushing maid.
"And it's counterfeit at that," muttered the young man, who had observed that the blush was permanent.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A Spoiled Joke.

"I put my foot in it today."

"Got you. Bought a new pair of shoes."—Baltimore American.

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Forfeits Citizenship.

The law upon the subject of forfeited citizenship reads as follows: "When any naturalized citizen shall have resided two years in the foreign state from which he came or five years in any other foreign state it shall be presumed that he has ceased to be an American citizen, and his place of abode shall be deemed his place of residence."

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